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Agenda item 98

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/67. Nuclear disarmament verification

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,[1] in particular the paragraphs relevant to verification, and the roles and respective mandates of the disarmament machinery bodies established therein,

Recalling also the decisions taken and commitments made by States parties at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference[2] and the 2000[3] and 2010[4] Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons related to nuclear disarmament verification,

Reaffirming the shared commitment to further progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

Reiterating its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

Recalling the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[5] are committed under article VI thereof,

Recalling also that significant steps by all the nuclear-weapon States leading to nuclear disarmament should promote international stability, peace and security, and be based on the principle of increased and undiminished security for all,

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[3] See *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)).

[4] See *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

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Recalling further that all States parties to the Treaty commit to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their treaty obligations,

Convinced that, while verification is not an aim in itself, further development of the multilateral nuclear disarmament verification capabilities will be required to provide assurance of compliance with multilateral nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons,

Convinced also that, irrespective of different positions on the means to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, identifying and developing practical and effective measures of nuclear disarmament verification and monitoring will foster confidence and facilitate efforts to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons,

Recalling its resolution 62/21 of 5 December 2007 on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification, in which it took note of the report of the Panel of Government Experts on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification,[6] as well as the reports of the Secretary-General of 1990 and 1995,[7] and recalling also the report of the Disarmament Commission outlining general principles elaborated upon or added to those stated in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[8]

Recalling also that the International Atomic Energy Agency, in carrying out its functions, shall conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to promote peace and international cooperation, and in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded worldwide disarmament and with any international agreements entered into pursuant to such policies,

Mindful of the role of verification in existing bilateral and multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control agreements, and the importance of making use of existing capabilities of relevant international organizations and experiences and lessons learned, as appropriate,

Mindful also that, given the challenges associated with verifying nuclear disarmament, continuous capacity-building and technical development are critical to bridging any shortcomings and establishing effective multilateral nuclear disarmament verification,

Noting initiatives and partnerships among Member States, such as the initiative of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, to enable active collaboration between States, in conformity with their international obligations, in developing practical methods that could contribute to the verification of irreversible dismantlement of nuclear weapons,

Noting also the contribution of representatives of civil society from the non-governmental, academic and research communities,

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[6] See A/61/1028.

[7] A/45/372 and Corr.1 and A/50/377 and Corr.1.

[8] A/51/182/Rev.1.

1. *Calls for* further efforts to reduce and eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, and reaffirms the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals;

2. *Reaffirms* that disarmament and arms limitation agreements should provide for adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned in order to create the necessary confidence and ensure that they are being observed by all parties, and notes the development of broader partnerships and cooperative verification arrangements;

3. *Calls upon* all States to work together to identify and develop practical and effective disarmament verification measures facilitating the objective of achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons through, inter alia, advancing, understanding and addressing technical challenges of nuclear disarmament verification and monitoring, including tools, solutions and methods and capacity-building;

4. *Calls for* the development and strengthening of practical and effective nuclear disarmament verification measures, which will build confidence and facilitate the advancement of nuclear disarmament efforts, and affirms in this context the importance of credible verification in providing assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations and commitments;

5. *Encourages* the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission to substantively address nuclear disarmament verification;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the development and strengthening of practical and effective nuclear disarmament verification measures and on the importance of such measures in achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons, and to report back to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts of up to 25 participants on the basis of equitable geographical distribution to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament, taking into account the aforementioned report, which will meet in Geneva in 2018 and 2019 for a total of three sessions of five days each;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", a sub-item entitled "Nuclear disarmament verification".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016